

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
November 2011 Agenda Item 30.a**

Applicant: Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative

Water Activity Name: Water 2012: The Rio Grande Basin Partnering for Colorado's Water Future

Water Activity Purpose: Nonstructural Water Activity

County: Saguache, Rio Grande, Conejos, Archuleta, Alamosa, Hinsdale, Costilla

Drainage Basin: Rio Grande

Water Source: N/A

Amount Requested: \$15,600 (Rio Grande Account)

Matching Funds: \$50,850 (326% of requested funds)

Staff Recommendation
The proposed grant will assist the Rio Grande Roundtable in sharing its consumptive & nonconsumptive needs and projects to meet those needs with the public. Staff recommends approval of up to \$15,600 from the Rio Grande Basin Account.

Water Activity Summary:

The applicant seeks to implement Rio Grande Education Action Plan activities in 2012 in coordination with the broader Water 2012 efforts. The applicant has put together a variety of activities to help implement the Rio Grande Education Action Plan and Water 2012 activities in the Rio Grande Basin. This grant request seeks partial funding for those tasks that directly tie to their Basin Roundtable's needs assessment. Matching funds are used to partially fund those tasks tied to the needs assessment and fully fund other education activities important to the basin.

The scope of work includes the following tasks:

- Task 1: The Statewide "2012" initiative is set to recognize milestones in Colorado's water community (e.g., speakers bureau and sharing in the "One book–One Colorado" program) (*fully funded via match*)
- Task 2: 100th anniversary of Rio Grande Reservoir. Highlights of the 2012 water celebration will include a historical celebration and tour of the Rio Grande Reservoir
- Task 3: Tours of all Roundtable projects, including the re-release of the "Reservoir" DVD originally funded by WRSA funds
- Task 4: 52 weekly water stories showcasing our water past, present and future
- Task 5: A one-time pull-out in the 6 county weekly "free" newspaper; the pull-out will be all about water with shared perspectives from the Arkansas and the Gunnison
- Task 6: The Basin will do a total of 12 radio interviews that will introduce listeners to a wide variety of water experts and topics
- Task 7: "Water fest at Cole Park" with hands-on activities that highlight 2012 (for about 1,500 kids) (*fully funded via match*)
- Task 8: Purchase a copy of the statewide traveling display and students creation of "water" art around a theme set by the roundtable concerning water needs and/or solutions in the basin (*fully funded via match*)

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application/project meets all four Threshold Criteria. No Statewide funds are being requested, therefore the evaluation criteria does not apply.

Discussion:

HB 05-1177 (37-75-104) indicates that each basin roundtable has powers and responsibilities that include the following:

- “(c) Basin roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs.
- “(d) Serve as a forum for education and debate regarding methods for meeting water supply needs; and
- “(e) As needed, establish roundtable subcommittees or other mechanisms to facilitate dialogue and resolution of issues and conflicts within the basin.”

These items are a focus of this application. The educational activities will be used to help the Roundtable to encourage stakeholders to better educate themselves about the basin’s consumptive and nonconsumptive needs and proposed solutions to meet those needs, better understand the work of the Roundtable; familiarize themselves with other projects and studies, provide informed input, and become involved.

Staff worked closely with the applicant, who has found match dollars to pay for tasks not directly associated with (c), (d), and (e) above. The applicant has articulated how each task seeking WSRA funding relates to the Basin Roundtable activities, and has outlined discreet deliverables for each task.

Staff also worked closely with the applicant and those involved in the broader Water 2012 efforts to ensure the tasks proposed in this grant fit within and do not duplicate the activities in the Colorado Water 2012 Strategic Framework. The Basin Roundtables section of this Framework is attached.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- No Issues or Additional Needs were identified

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$15,600 from the Rio Grande Basin Account for the implementation of Rio Grande public education, outreach, and participation activities.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and will help promote the development of a common technical platform.

In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed or certified by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.